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MESSAGE

—OF—

LLOYD LOWNDES,

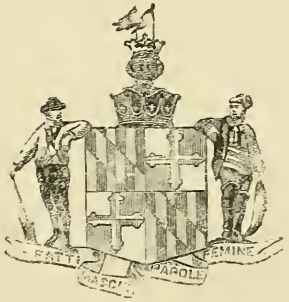
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND.

—TO THE—

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

—AT ITS—

REGULAR SESSION, JANUARY, 1900.



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MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

ANNAPOLIS, MD., January 3, 1900.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The Constitution of Maryland requires the Governor to inform the General Assembly of the condition of the State and recommend such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient for the public welfare.

It has always been my desire, and it is better for the State, for the people to have an accurate knowledge of the Departments and Institutions which derive their support from the public funds.

In the management of all State Institutions and Bureaus I have insisted upon the application of business principles, and it gives me pleasure to say that their condition was never more satisfactory. The details of their workings will shortly be submitted to you by their respective heads. I ask your careful consideration of these reports, as I shall but briefly sketch the operations of the branches of government.

STATE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the State, which is a matter of first importance, may be summarized as follows:

September 30, 1895, the net debt was	$3,005,253 13
September 30, 1899, the net debt was	2,597,042 95
Showing a decrease in four years of	408,210 18
Although in the meantime there were issued for the building of the new Penitentiary and the Second Hospital for the Insane—	
Bonds amounting to	1,200,000 00

173510

Making the actual reduction in the State debt since 1895	1,608,210	18
The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1898, shows that there was a balance in the Treasury on that date of	566,351	30
The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1899, shows that the total receipts into the Treasury during the year were	3,791,298	77
Making the total amount available in the Treasury during the year 1899 of	4,357,650	07
The report of the Comptroller for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1899, shows the total disbursements to have been	3,649,724	07
Leaving a balance in the Treasury on September 30, 1899, of	707,926	00

The substantial reduction in the State debt recorded above has been accomplished in the face of greater appropriations for educational and charitable purposes than were made during any preceding administration. The revenues of the State are steadily growing, and with this continuance of increase, which should come under a wise and economical conduct of State affairs, there is no reason why the tax rate of 17¾ cents should not be materially lessened, and, within a few years, the public debt paid off.

Unnecessary offices should not be created and useless ones should be discontinued. Every effort ought to be made to lessen the weight of taxation.

Along this line I think that the office of State Fire Marshal should be abolished. The $5,500 which is annually appropriated for its support could be withheld, and the powers of the State Insurance Commissioner so enlarged that the duties of Fire Marshal could be performed by one of his deputies.

For the purpose of attracting to the State desirable immigrants the General Assembly of 1896 established the Bureau of Immigration. The experiment has been tried, and in my judgment the results have not been satisfactory.

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

The new buildings of the Maryland Penitentiary are completed and occupied. They were erected and equipped at a cost of $1,071,110.45. This is now the most modern penal institution in the country. It continues to be self-supporting; the receipts for the past year having been $120,396.46, the largest in its history.

To make room for the new buildings it became necessary to raze some of the workshops. For the good of the inmates, as well as the self-maintenance of the institution, these shops should be restored, others put into operation, and the present ones rearranged. The old Penitentiary building, too, should be remodeled for hospital and other purposes. To carry out this work $150,000 is needed. With the facilities which would then be had it would not be long before the interest on the Penitentiary Loan could be paid out of the proceeds of the industrial enterprises located there.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

There is no institution in the State in which greater or more needed advance has been made in the last four years than the House of Correction. The original structure has been added to and improved so that there is now a dormitory exclusively for women, and a workshop apart from the living quarters, while modern sanitary arrangements have been installed in the whole building. New industrial enterprises have been inaugurated, the proceeds of which have increased the revenues of the State $12,000 more than in any year prior to 1896. Better discipline is preserved, and the general administration is highly creditable to the State.

STATE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES.

The work of the State Tobacco Warehouses under the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1898 has been very satisfactory. The first report of the Chief Inspector for the year

ending March 31, 1898, showed the net earnings for the year to be $15,705.05, an increase of more than $5,000 over any one year since the establishment of the warehouses. Experience has shown, however, that the law should be amended so as to give the Chief Inspector larger powers over the appointment and removal of subordinates.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Maryland Agricultural College has become one of the most valuable educational institutions in the State. New buildings have been added and much-needed improvement made to the old, while the curriculum has been enlarged. The growing importance and appreciation of the college makes an addition to the main structure imperative.

The offices of State Entomologist and State Pathologist, which are conducted in connection with the college, have been administered so as to receive commendation from almost every county, while the Department of Farmers' Institutes has been productive of much good in the discussion of subjects which are of practical import to agricultural classes.

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Maryland Geological Survey, inaugurated by the General Assembly of Maryland of 1896, has accomplished important results during the brief period of its operations.

Three large volumes have already been issued, including reports dealing with the building stone industry, magnetic variations, highway improvement, and our agricultural and mineral resources.

Reports of an educational character of the physiography and geology of Maryland have been furnished, and other publications based upon the work of the past years are already in press, including a fourth volume of the survey dealing with the geological and economic resources of the western counties, together with a report of the surveys of both the western boundary and

the Allegany-Garrett boundary line. The surveys of Allegany, Garrett, Cecil and Kent counties are complete, together with portions of Washington, Harford, Prince George's and Queen Anne's counties.

One of the most important branches of the work of the survey during the past two years has related to the study of Maryland highway conditions. This work will afford the basis for future legislation in this direction.

The most permanent and economical methods of road-building may be ascertained after a period of model road-building in the vicinity of the several county towns where the most approved methods of road construction and actual operation may be demonstrated for the benefit of the people.

I recommend that the work of the survey receive the same liberal support of the General Assembly in the future as in the past.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The administration of the public schools should be divorced from all political influences. To this end I recommend the adoption of legislation that will insure the minority party representation on all the School Boards in the State. The salaries of the teachers in the public schools should be increased to a degree commensurate with the importance and requirements of the profession, and the tenure of office for teachers should be made more permanent, without regard to the mutations of politics.

The State Normal School is increasing in usefulness, and every year sending forth graduates well equipped as teachers.

The last General Assembly made an appropriation of $20,000 for a second Normal School at Frostburg. That amount being found insufficient, Allegany County advanced $5,000 for the erection of the building.

It will be necessary that an appropriation be made for the furnishing of the school, which will be completed in a few months.

A question which must sooner or later be met by the people of Maryland is that of the education of the colored race, so that the colored man may be given tools wherewith to become a good and useful citizen. The most certain method, to my mind, is the establishment of manual training and industrial schools. I recommend that this matter be given your serious attention.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

The State Hospitals for the Insane are competently managed. Humane treatment for this class of patients is successfully practiced.

Through the liberal appropriations made by the last two General Assemblies, the Board of Managers of the Spring Grove Asylum was enabled to make many needed improvements for the betterment of the inmates.

The Second Hospital, near Sykesville, is not surpassed by any retreat of its kind. The open door treatment has been introduced for the first time in the State, and has proven eminently satisfactory. The first group of buildings is now occupied by 196 male patients. The second group is almost finished, and will be occupied by females.

The State has never made provision for a separate hospital for the colored insane. From the best information there are fully 350 of these unfortunates in the State. I would recommend that a group of buildings be erected on the grounds at Springfield for this purpose.

The questions of the State care of the pauper insane and the diversion of the liquor license fees of Baltimore City to the income of that municipality are being agitated.

The adoption of the first proposition is worthy of consideration. It has been recommended by the State Lunacy Commission, which has repeatedly submitted its views on the matter to the General Assembly. But if this is done the additional burden thereby imposed upon the State will preclude any diversion of the present revenues.

STATE LIBRARY.

During the excellent administration of the State Library by the present incumbent, the 39,000 volumes have been rearranged and a card catalogue made.

Many valuable pamphlets have been examined, classified and made accessible, and improved library methods adopted.

STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.

The report of the State Insurance Commissioner shows that the receipts from this department have largely increased since the present incumbent was appointed. There is no reason why this increase should not be kept up if the department continues to be wisely conducted and the Insurance Laws so amended as to conform to the changing demands of business. For the past fiscal year the receipts were $166,795.09, while in 1895 they were $134,100.98. I ask your attention to the recommendations made by the commissioner.

FISH COMMISSION.

The Fish Commissioners have been most energetic, and from all sections of the State the results of their labors have been commended. Their work should continue to receive liberal encouragement.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS.

The Bureau of Industrial Statistics has been ably conducted. Its report for the year 1898 contains for the first time statistical tables dealing with the industries of Maryland outside of Baltimore City, besides having much other useful and reliable information.

LIVE STOCK SANITARY BOARD.

The Live Stock Sanitary Board has made itself one of the most useful branches of the State Government. The scope of the Board was enlarged by the Act of 1898, which placed upon

it the duty of inspecting the premises of those dairies from which milk was shipped to the cities and towns. It is important to note that the constitutionality of this Act was attacked, but the legality of the measure has been affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

STATE PRINTING.

Money can be saved to the State if the General Assembly will provide means for the concentration of the State printing under the management of one person. Under the present law, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals biennially advertises for and lets a contract for State printing. This contract, however, covers only about one-third of all the printing that is paid for out of the State Treasury. Nearly all the State Bureaus contract for their own printing, which is paid for out of their regular appropriations. I would suggest a Public Printer, with authority to do the work himself or contract for the same.

FIRE PROTECTION TO STATE HOUSE.

The General Assembly of 1898 appropriated $3,000 to be expended for improvements in the Electrical Equipment of the State House to reduce the danger from fire. This work has been completed, and additional fire protection has been secured by placing on each floor and in different parts of the buildings reels of hose attached to water plugs.

ELECTIONS.

Every safeguard should be thrown around our elections so that they may be made the free and fair index of the popular will. To this end I think that legislation similar to that in force in other States, and known as the Corrupt Practices Act, would go far towards reducing corruption at the polls. A Primary Election Law should also be enacted, under the provisions of which it may be possible for any reputable citizen to become a candidate for public office. As it now stands, it is frequently the case that only the man with money has any hope of winning

in the primaries, and then only if he be the choice of the party organization. This not only precludes worthy citizens of limited means from the realization of honorable political ambitions, but compels the people at the General Election to make their selection between two men neither of whom is the first choice of the majority of the voters.

The Constitution and law should be so changed that contested elections in the case of Clerks of Courts and Registers of Wills, instead of being decided by the House of Delegates, should be passed upon by the Judges of the several Circuit Courts, and in Baltimore City, by the Superior Court of that City. The question at issue in such cases is purely one of law and fact, and in no sense political.

POLICE REORGANIZATION.

The policing of a large city like Baltimore ought to be kept entirely apart from partisan politics, and no political party should be charged with or assume single-handed the preservation of order; every citizen, no matter what his political connection may be, has a right to demand the best protection possible of his life and property. The time has arrived when the Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore City should be reorganized upon a non-partisan basis. In order to secure undivided responsibility, the power of appointment of Police Commissioners should rest with the Governor, with the consent of the Senate.

OYSTERS.

The steady dimunition of the oyster supply of the Chesapeake Bay ought to receive careful consideration. The time has come when the State must take some action for improving the wasteful methods at present employed in catching oysters, and for the encouragement of oyster planting. The oyster fund derived from Tongers' and Dredgers' Licenses continues to be insufficient for the support of the State Fishery Force.

MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA BOUNDARY LINE.

For some years past at various times difficulties have occurred between the citizens of Maryland and the Oyster Police Force of Virginia along the line between the two States. Arrests have been made of the citizens of Maryland, who have appealed to the Executive, claiming that the arrests were made while they were pursuing their daily labor either of oystering or crabbing within the territory of Maryland.

In order to avoid these difficulties commissioners were appointed by the Executives of Maryland and Virginia to mark the boundary line, and their reports, on file, show that the work has been satisfactorily done.

AMENDMENT OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS.

It sometimes happens that an important amendment to a municipal charter, containing features obnoxious to a majority of the citizens it is to affect, is passed by the General Assembly at the instance of the local officers. To obviate this difficulty I think it well that the General Assembly should require a popular vote on such measures before they become effective.

STATE AUDITOR.

I wish to renew the recommendation which I made in my Message to the General Assembly of 1898, that provision be made for a State Auditor, whose duty shall be to examine the accounts of public officers who receive and disburse State funds, and of institutions that receive State aid.

MARYLANDERS IN CIVIL WAR.

The General Assembly of 1896 authorized me to appoint a commission, without compensation, to compile and publish a History of the Maryland Volunteers in the Civil War. This work has been conscientiously done, and contains the records of 62,000 soldiers and sailors who were an honor to the nation and to the State.

I would recommend that a similar publication be made of the names of Marylanders who volunteered their services during the war with Spain.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

On the first call for volunteers by the President, April 23, 1898, the State of Maryland furnished one regiment of infantry (Fifth Regiment Maryland United States Volunteers) commanded by Col. R. Dorsey Coale, consisting of fifty officers and 961 enlisted men, aggregating 1011, and two battalions of infantry (First Maryland United States Volunteers) commanded by Col. W. P. Lane, consisting of thirty-two officers and 626 enlisted men, aggregating 658.

On the second call by the President the State furnished one battalion of infantry, consisting of sixteen officers and 426 enlisted men, aggregate 442.

The total strength of these commands was ninety-eight officers and 2,013 enlisted men, aggregate 2,111—this was the full quota of the State asked for by the War Department. In addition to this the Navy Department on the first call and subsequently was furnished twenty-six officers and 430 enlisted men, making a total of 124 officers and 2,443 men, aggregating 2,567 furnished by the State.

The Maryland Naval Battalion manned the United States Auxiliary Cruiser "Dixie" and several United States Monitors. The men comprising the crew of the Dixie were the only organization from Maryland which had actual war service, having participated in the capture of Ponce, Peurto Rico. The State appropriated $200,000 for preparing troops for the war. Of this sum $125,000 was used. Vouchers have been filed with the War Department. $101,080.40 has been refunded to the State, and I hope that the full amount will be shortly returned.

No troops furnished the government were more expeditiously and fully clothed, armed and equipped for service and sent forward than those from the State of Maryland.

Every care and comfort was extended to the sick soldiers

brought home from the camps in the South and placed in our hospitals, and no necessary expense was spared in giving them the best medical attention during their convalescence.

The foregoing gives a fair general idea of the condition of the departments and institutions of the State. I would, however, again suggest that you accord to the reports submitted from these sources a careful hearing, as they contain much information of value that could not well be made within the compass of a paper such as this. With these as a guide, and with the interests of the whole people of the State in view, I trust that you will enact such measures as will redound to its honor and promote the public welfare.

LLOYD LOWNDES.